Regional Resilience Grant Program Workshop

July 18, 2022

Technical Advisory Council
Item 7: Regional Resilience Grant Program Workshop

Introduction

The ICARP Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (Regional Resilience Grant Program) will help fill local, regional, and tribal needs and support a pipeline of regional scale climate resilient projects, by providing communities the funding needed to identify climate resilience priorities, build capacity, and implement projects in response to the greatest climate risks in a region.

The Regional Resilience Grant Program will invest $250 million over three funding rounds. Available to local, regional, and tribal governments, the Regional Resilience Grant Program will support regions in advancing resilience through three major activities: capacity-building, planning, and project implementation. The first grant cycle will invest $25 million, including at least $12.5 million to support regional climate adaptation planning efforts and the development of action plans that prioritize projects or actions addressing the greatest climate risks facing a region, particularly in the most vulnerable communities. Grants will be made available both competitively and on a formula basis.

Following the Technical Advisory Council workshop, ICARP staff will coordinate listening sessions and stakeholder interviews to inform draft grant guidelines. Draft guidelines will be available for public comment in the fall, followed by a request for proposals over the winter. Grant awards for the first funding cycle are expected to be announced in the spring of 2023.

Key Priorities of ICARP’s Regional Resilience Grant Program are to:

- Support regional projects aligned with ICARP priorities that improve regional climate resilience and reduce climate risks from wildfire, sea level rise, drought, flood, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events.

- Support projects or actions that address the greatest climate risks in the region, particularly in the most vulnerable communities.

- Fill the gaps in climate resilience funding and support sustainable and cohesive climate resilient projects.
Discussion Questions

• How can this program define a region to accomplish regional-scale climate resilience solutions?

• What types of regional partnerships can support these solutions?

• How can the program sequence the 3 major activities (planning, capacity building, project implementation) over the three funding cycles to support cohesive projects?

• While this program may issue grants both competitively and on a formula basis, what should the program consider when evaluating the feasibility of funding set-asides?

• How can this program define capacity building to fill gaps in climate resilience funding?

• Where are the gaps in climate resilience funding and how might we structure the program to align with other programs?

• What are the existing barriers to accessing similar funding programs? How can the grant program address these barriers (i.e., technical assistance)?